

this award, Ms. Solomon was one of only 200 teachers out of seven hundred and fifty applicants to earn the Fulbright Award.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Jill Solomon for her continued devotion to excellence in education and congratulate her for receiving the Fulbright Award.

PROCLAMATION FOR EVAN
CHRISTIAN BROWNELL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young men, Evan Brownell. The Boy Scouts of his troop will honor him as they recognize his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on Sunday, October 7th.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Mr. Brownell, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Evan and his family.

TRIBUTE TO MARION BRITTON

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform my colleagues of the loss of a committed public servant Marion Britton. Marion was a passenger on the United Airlines Flight 93 that was hijacked on September 11, 2001, and crashed outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Marion Britton's career with the Census Bureau spanned 21 years during which she worked with dedication and distinction on all major Regional Office field data collection op-

erations including the Current Survey programs, the Decennial Census, and Census Tests.

She began her career in 1980 in New York City as a Field Operations Assistant during the 1980 Census. In 1981, Ms. Britton accepted a position as a Survey Clerk in the New York Regional Office. Desiring a supervisory position, she applied for and was selected in 1983 to participate in the Census Bureau sponsored Upward Mobility Program. In 1989, upon her successful completion of this program, she advanced to a Supervisory Survey Statistician position in the New York Regional Office. In recognition of her considerable abilities to manage technically and operationally complex field data collection operations, Ms. Britton was selected to work on the 1995 Census Test in Paterson, New Jersey, managing the critical coverage measurement operations. The 1995 Census Test was an essential part of the development of the overall design of Census 2000. Ms. Britton had also participated in the initial test of the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing coverage measurement instrument and training and contributed input that proved beneficial on a nationwide basis.

After her considerable contributions to the successful completion of the 1995 Census Test, she was promoted in rapid succession to the position of Coordinator in the New York Regional Office in 1996, where she managed and directed several Supervisory Survey Statisticians assigned to Current Survey programs and then to Assistant Regional Census Manager, in 1997. In this position, she was instrumental in leading the crucial preparations and early operations for Census 2000. In 1998, Ms. Britton was called upon to serve as the Assistant Regional Director and given full operational and managerial responsibility for the New York Regional Office during the period of time while Census 2000 was being conducted. This was also a period of major expansion of the Current Survey programs. Shortly after this, she was selected to serve in an expanded managerial role as the Deputy Regional Director which included providing direct guidance and leadership for the Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. After the completion of Census 2000, Ms. Britton returned to her position as the Assistant Regional Director for the New York Regional Office.

During her career with the Census Bureau, Ms. Britton earned several major honors and awards for her outstanding managerial and technical skills and innovative contributions. She received the Census Award of Excellence in 1988, the Bronze Medal Award, the highest honorary award granted by the Census Bureau, in 1993, and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's "Hammer Award" in 1999 for her work on the American Community Survey.

DR. EDWARD AYENSU ON THE
BENEFITS OF MASS HIV/AIDS
TESTING AND COUNSELING FOR
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the following statement in the official

RECORD. I have the highest regard for Dr. Ayensu, and would like to commend this body's attention to his work. As Dr. Ayensu has rightly stated, the lack of surveillance is a significant problem in the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Africa. If we are to truly overcome this disease, we must heed people like Dr. Ayensu. I hope that my colleagues find his work as beneficial as I have.

THE BENEFITS OF MASS HIV/AIDS TESTING
AND COUNSELING FOR VULNERABLE POPU-
LATIONS

My name is Edward S. Ayensu. I am President of the Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Ghana, Member of the Independent Inspection Panel of the World Bank and formerly a Director and Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

The fearsome prospect that HIV/AIDS can inadvertently be transmitted to any one of us—regardless of our social and economic standing—requires that decision makers the world over should make a political commitment to help halt this, the most formidable plague of all time.

As an African whose continent is experiencing untold levels of human suffering because of AIDS, I would like to offer an observation which is based on extensive field experience. Many people are dying needlessly in Africa and in other developing countries because a large percentage of people in these societies have no means of knowing their HIV-status. Knowledge of one's HIV status provides a powerful stimulus towards self-protection. For those who test HIV-negative, the realization that they are yet to be attacked by the virus results in a strong determination to remain forever free of the disease through the accepted means of self-protection. For individuals who test positive, there is generated a powerful restraint on infecting others. The net outcome is a dramatic check in HIV-spread.

Based on our current knowledge of the disease, it is evident that early diagnosis of the infection has enormous benefits for both HIV-negative and HIV-positive individuals. A key line of defense against the rapid spread of the disease accordingly is to ensure that everybody in a vulnerable community is tested as soon as possible—certainly long before the disease begins to break down the immune system and the external manifestation of its dreadful effects set in.

It is therefore absolutely essential that we employ the best and the most efficient and practical ultra rapid test kits available today to undertake a mass Shielded Testing and Counseling Program. Most of the currently available tests for HIV are laboratory based and unsuitable for mass testing in the field where the required infrastructure may not be available. However, most of the available rapid tests are not suitable partly because of an unacceptably high percentage of false positives and negatives, and also because of the need for unwieldy logistical support services such as refrigeration.

First and foremost the assay must be for blood, serum or plasma and must be stable at temperatures ranging from -20°C to +45°C. This is particularly important because the high HIV prone areas are in pan tropical regions of the world and in countries where the rural communities do not have refrigeration facilities for tests that require it. The test has to be fool proof in its performance with built-in controls to avoid misinterpretations. It must be designed not to produce false-positive and false-negative results. The sensitivity and specificity must be 100 per cent. It must be suitable for mass testing (e.g. up to 1000 people per day with a team of

four persons administering the test and serving as counselors). It must be a test that is suitable for clinics, doctors' offices and rural areas where medical infrastructure does not exist. The cost must be lower than the costs for laboratory tests. Finally, it must enable the use of simple pictorial instructions so that uninstructed persons can perform it.

For HIV-positive individuals, the heightened awareness of the possible onset of opportunistic diseases enables the latter to be quickly addressed. It further enables the individual to assume a new lifestyle (including good nutritional habits and sufficient exercise) and to take medication that reduces the viral load in the blood. The knowledge of being diagnosed HIV positive will enable the individual to avoid transmitting the virus to others. It will also help the person to develop long-term plans for his or her future and dependents.

The problem of arresting the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS is by no means confined to the developing countries. There are, however, highly vulnerable communities (sometimes enclaves) in the developed countries, where the HIV/AIDS transmission is largely heterosexual, and the communities in question are relatively speaking, socially deprived or disadvantaged.

It is therefore necessary that the current spread of the disease be viewed as a universal problem, which knows no boundary and requires the collective effort of us all to contain it.

INSTALLATION OF THOMAS AHART AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas B. Ahart of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, on his installation as President of our nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA)—next month in Honolulu. As president of Ahart, Frinzi & Smith in Phillipsburg, Tom was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in October of 1996 and honored by his peers last year when he was named President-Elect. His career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding service and dedication to his clients, community, IIAA, the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey, and his colleagues across the country.

Tom began his volunteer service within the insurance industry with the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey where he served as president and chairman of the board. He also represented the state as its representative to IIAA's National Board of State Directors. He was chairman of IIAA's Education Committee for four years before being elected to the Association's executive leadership panel. As a member of IIAA's Executive Committee, he has worked to strengthen the competitive standing of independent agents by helping to provide the tools they need to run more successful businesses. Outside IIAA, Tom has served as a member of the board of the New Jersey Joint Underwriting Authority

and was president of the Eastern Agents Association. He has served as an advisor to the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the Insurance Institute of America.

During his dedicated time with the insurance industry, Tom has been honored with several state and local awards. They include the 1982 New Jersey Young Agent of the Year, the 1986 and 1987 New Jersey Executive Committee Chairman of the Year Award, the 1993 New Jersey Insurance Person of the Year Award, and the 1994 IIA of Hunterdon/Warren County Agent of the Year Award.

Tom also has distinguished himself as an active and concerned member of his community. He has served as a member of his local school board, a trustee at his church, and a little league coach for 25 years, involved with boy's wrestling, boy's baseball, girl's basketball and girl's softball.

During these productive and active years, Tom has accomplished much. I bid him a successful year as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America. As his past accomplishments show, Tom will serve his fellow agents with distinction and strong leadership. I wish him all the best as IIAA President.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANT OF A TOTALLY IMPLANTABLE ARTIFICIAL HEART

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a pioneering medical event that took place in my district, Louisville, KY, on July 2, 2001. The horizons of medical possibilities were expanded when, at Jewish Hospital, a team of doctors led by Drs. Laman A. Gray, Jr., M.D. and Robert D. Dowling, M.D. successfully performed the world's first totally implantable artificial heart surgery. The doctors, supported by a team of fourteen nurses and staff, completed the procedure in seven hours. I am pleased to report that the recipient of the first ABIOMED heart, Robert Tools, is resting comfortably and improving steadily in his daily physical rehabilitation. Mr. Tools fit a precise profile that was required for the first recipient, and the opportunity to receive the heart was virtually his only chance of survival after years of struggling with heart disease. Three months after the surgery, we are joined by his doctors in being encouraged by his improving strength and mobility.

Not only has this surgery changed the life of one man who was facing near certain death, but it has stretched the boundaries of medical possibilities for people around the world. This outstanding achievement would not have been possible without the teamwork and unyielding efforts of the doctors, researchers and medical professionals who have worked for over twenty years toward the goal of creating a totally implantable heart. In an alliance of the public and private sectors: Jewish Hospital, The University of Louisville and ABIOMED, Inc., came together to ensure that their goal was met. In

doing so, they have created an opportunity for over 100,000 people in the United States alone to have access to a life-saving procedure that did not exist prior to this breakthrough.

With the current shortage in the supply of organ donors, the creation of a totally implantable artificial heart is unmatched in its medical significance. I am so impressed with the bravery shown by everyone involved in this event—from the medical professionals to the patient and the patient's family. I would like to commend the team of doctors and researchers at Jewish Hospital, The University of Louisville, and ABIOMED, Inc., who worked tirelessly for so many years toward this goal. Furthermore, it is overwhelming to imagine the courage it must have taken for Mr. Tools and his family to become part of the team, and I thank them for their irreplaceable contribution.

I am proud to report that just two weeks ago at Jewish Hospital, the second totally transplantable heart surgery was performed by Drs. Gray and Dowling. The doctors report that the patient, Tom Christerson, is tackling his recovery head-on. I am hopeful that success stories such as these will begin to be told at hospitals around the country. Through continued teamwork and support for medical research, I am confident that they will.

As we move ever-forward in the field of heart medicine, I will always be grateful to the wonderful team in Louisville on whose shoulders the initial responsibility of stepping forward rested. Their efforts have created an unprecedented opportunity for hundreds of thousands of patients facing fatal heart disorders. For that I am truly thankful. I hope that the efforts of Drs. Dowling and Gray, Jewish Hospital, The University of Louisville, ABIOMED and their patients will inspire us to continue striving for such medical excellence.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DANIEL LEE NEFF

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Daniel Lee Neff served as director of Ohio's Office of Appalachia under former Governor George Voinovich from '94-'98, and assistant director from '91-'94; and

Whereas, Mr. Neff is a veteran public policy professional in Ohio and Executive Director of the Ohio Mid-Eastern Government's Association in Cambridge; and

Whereas, Mr. Neff has been selected as Director of Local Development Districts for the Appalachian Regional Commission and Managing Director of the Development District Association of Appalachia; and

Whereas, Mr. Neff has proven how local leaders working at the grassroots can spark regional and local positive change for all Appalachian communities;

Therefore, I commend his contributions as a citizen and leader and support and wholly affirm his appointment that gives honor to Ohio as he continues to achieve great things for his Appalachian neighbors.